

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Cancelled without prejudice)

17. (Amended) A *KEXI* [[gene derived from *Hansenula polymorpha* DL1 (ATCC 26012), having the base sequence according to]] nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 [[, which codes for]] encoding carboxypeptidase α , which is isolated from *Hansenula polymorpha* DL1 (ATCC 26012).

18. (Original) A vector pKUZ, which is constructed by inserting a *Hansenula polymorpha* *URA3* gene pop-out cassette into a plasmid pKH3.9 carrying the *KEXI* gene according to SEQ ID NO: 3 in such a way that the *KEXI* gene is disrupted.

19. (Original) A carboxypeptidase α mutant strain, *Hansenula polymorpha* DL1/ *kex1*(KCTC 0736 BP), into which a *Hansenula polymorpha* DL1 strain is transformed with the vector pKUZ of claim 18.

20. (Original) A process for producing a recombinant protein, wherein a gene coding for an exogenous protein is introduced into the carboxypeptidase α mutant strain of claim 19 and the cell is cultured in a culture medium.

21-43. (Cancelled without prejudice)

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